

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 239

To authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Senator John Herschel Glenn, Jr., in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions toward American society for more than fifty years.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 1999

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services

A BILL

To authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Senator John Herschel Glenn, Jr., in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions toward American society for more than fifty years.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “John Glenn Congres-
5 sional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

1 (1) John Herschel Glenn, Jr., was born on July
2 18, 1921, in Cambridge, Ohio;

3 (2) before he started school, John Glenn and
4 his family moved to nearby New Concord, Ohio;

5 (3) John Glenn graduated from New Concord
6 High School and enrolled in Muskingum College;

7 (4) John Glenn enlisted in the Naval Aviation
8 Cadet Program shortly after the attack on Pearl
9 Harbor and was commissioned in the United States
10 Marine Corps in 1943;

11 (5) John Glenn served in combat in the South
12 Pacific and also requested combat duty during the
13 Korean conflict;

14 (6) as a dedicated military officer, John Glenn
15 flew 149 missions during two wars;

16 (7) John Glenn received many honors for his
17 military service, including the Distinguished Flying
18 Cross on six occasions and the Air Medal with 18
19 clusters;

20 (8) John Glenn served several years as a test
21 pilot on Navy and Marine Corps jet fighters and at-
22 tack aircraft;

23 (9) as a test pilot, John Glenn set a trans-
24 continental speed record in 1957 by completing the

1 first flight to average supersonic speeds from Los
2 Angeles to New York;

3 (10) as a pioneer in the unknown realm of
4 space exploration, John Glenn was selected in 1959
5 as one of the original seven astronauts in the United
6 States space program;

7 (11) John Glenn on February 20, 1962, became
8 the first American to orbit the earth, completing
9 three orbits in a five-hour flight;

10 (12) John Glenn retired from the Marine Corps
11 in 1965 after 23 years of distinguished service to his
12 country;

13 (13) John Glenn became an outstanding busi-
14 ness executive in his native State of Ohio and also
15 took an active part in politics and in early environ-
16 mental protection efforts;

17 (14) John Glenn won his Senate seat in 1974
18 while carrying all 88 Ohio counties in the election;

19 (15) John Glenn won re-election to the Senate
20 in 1980 and in 1986, and in 1992 John Glenn made
21 history by becoming the first popularly elected Sen-
22 ator from Ohio to win four consecutive terms;

23 (16) John Glenn has set a proud example for
24 all Americans as a husband, father, and family man;

1 (17) John Glenn in 1998 returned to space
2 after 36 years as a member of the crew of the space
3 shuttle Discovery, serving as a payload specialist and
4 as a subject for basic research on how weightlessness
5 affects the body of an older person;

6 (18) having retired from the Senate after 24
7 years of distinguished service, John Glenn has given
8 the United States five decades of dedicated patriot-
9 ism, valor, and leadership; and

10 (19) John Glenn is a man of vision and a man
11 of action who has greatly inspired the people of the
12 United States and who will serve as a powerful role
13 model for the new millennium.

14 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

15 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is
16 authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, to Sen-
17 ator John Herschel Glenn, Jr., a gold medal of appro-
18 priate design, in recognition of his significant contribu-
19 tions to American society for more than fifty years.

20 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
21 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
22 of the Treasury shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-
23 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the
24 Secretary.

1 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—Effective
2 February 1, 1999, there are authorized to be appropriated
3 \$30,000 to carry out this section.

4 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

5 (a) STRIKING AND SALE.—The Secretary of the
6 Treasury may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the
7 gold medal struck pursuant to section 3 under such regu-
8 lations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient
9 to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies,
10 use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and the cost of
11 the gold medal.

12 (b) REIMBURSEMENT OF APPROPRIATION.—The ap-
13 propriation used to carry out section 3 shall be reimbursed
14 out of the proceeds of sales under subsection (a).

15 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

16 The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national
17 medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United
18 States Code.

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